

DIVISION: FORMS 1 - IVAGE GROUP: 12 yrs. plusSERIES: CURRENT AFFAIRSPROGRAMME (1) "The Life of Sir Winston Churchill"RECORDING TIME:TRANSMISSION: Wednesday, 27th January, 1965 (2.46 - 2.58 p.m.)

NARR: Hello boys and girls,

In the last few days the whole world has been talking about one man; a great man who died on Sunday morning. Do you know who he is? Well, I don't think I have to tell you - for everybody knows it's Sir Winston Churchill. Just a few months ago he was ninety years old - ten years short of a full century. That's why, boys and girls, people say that he was a historic figure: You see, he lived through so many changes: he had talked to people who have gone into the history books; he did things when he was young that seem to us far, far away. And yet only two years ago you could still hear *him* talking in Parliament in London. You can almost say that he was like a bridge: he joined two different times together and like a bridge one part of him was in that old world and another in our new one.

Let's have a look at Sir Winston's life. You remember I said he was ninety years old a few months ago. Well that means he was born in 1874. One of his *ancestors* had been a very great general winning many victories for England at the end of the seventeenth century - his name? John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough. And

/Winston Churchill was born.....

Winston Churchill was born in the great Palace of Blenheim which John Churchill had built to celebrate his greatest victory. So you see from the very outset Winston Churchill had fighting blood in his veins. But there is something **else** about Sir Winston Churchill which is very important. ^{Every day} ~~In the next few days~~ ^{we} ~~you will~~ hear people call ^{up} him the greatest Englishman of this century. Yet you know something children? His mother was an American. You remember what we said about his being a bridge between two different times; well he was also a bridge in another sense; he spanned two different countries - England and America. But let's get on with our story.

When Churchill grew big enough to go to school he went to a very famous English school called Harrow - a school where the sons of many distinguished people went. But Winston was not a distinguished school boy. In fact he was usually at the bottom of his class. One by one his teachers began to say that there was no future for this boy. Once he went to take an examination. He put his name on the paper, then he put question one. He put nothing else. There were only two things he could do well; English - he loved + writing essays and playing with words, and History, but there was never enough of it. When he left Harrow his parents were at their wits end. What could they do with him? They decided to send him to Sandhurst which is a training school for officers in the army. At Sandhurst he read all he could

/find on.....

Germany. He kept telling the British to arm themselves for war with Hitler would come. And most people of importance kept saying so. Then suddenly war came and the man who was Prime Minister when the war began felt he could ^{nt} handle it. Things were going badly for England. And so in desperation most people said "Let's try Churchill". / ^{After all} he couldn't make things any worse". So Winston Churchill was called upon to lead Britain at a black hour.

Suddenly everybody discovered that he had a wonderful way of making people feel very brave and very cheerful when things were very bad. When he spoke he could make his voice put heart into people; he could make the Nazis look like blundering fools: he could make people laugh at them. He made it sound impossible for them to win although they had so many odds on their side. Let's listen to his voice.

OPR

PLAY SLP 1691 FROM CUE

BEGINS: What General Weygland called the....

ENDS:this was their finest hour.

DUR: 1'30"

NARR:

There was something else too - he could make other nations change their minds about the war. Some nations were sure that Britain would be crushed by the Nazis. But after they began to hear Churchill's voice and his determination they began to change their minds. He made President Roosevelt of the United States feel that the United States must help Britain - even in a small way.

/But he did not.....

find on History, of battles, of generals, defeats - the lot.

He was a restless young man and so off he went to serve the army in India and later in Egypt. He had a habit of writing down what he saw and what he did - particularly if it was a battle - in other words he was becoming a war correspondent. He even came to the West Indies for a war. In 1898 war broke out between Spain and America over Cuba and Churchill was in the thick of it, on one or two occasions just managing to miss a bullet or two. He seemed to love being in the thick of it; because when in 1899 war broke out in South Africa between the British and the Boers - the descendants of the Dutch who once ruled South Africa - Churchill went as a reporter on the war - what we call a war correspondent. Once again he was in the thick of things, but this time he was captured. Every one thought he would be silent for the rest of the war but not Churchill. He soon got away and was back at his job once again.

When he was finished with the Boer war he went in for politics and became a member of Parliament in 1900 - that is ^{sixty}~~fifty~~-five years ago. He held many offices in Government but he was not thought by many people to be a successful man. Many people thought he spoke his mind too freely. And so often Churchill felt he was alone. He was very much alone when he begged Britain in the 1930's not to be friendly with Hitler at that time Dictator of /Germany. He kept.....

But he did not have to wait very long for the Americans came into the war when they were attacked by Hitler's friends the Japanese, and from then on the Americans became more and more ^{fond} of Sir Winston and he of course reminded them that he was half American. But it wasn't only America that joined the war against the Nazis. Russians did too because Hitler invaded their country.

Listen to Churchill's voice saying he would help Russia to fight.

OPR.

PLAY SLP 1691 FROM CUE

At four o'clock this morning Hitler.....

....(We shall fight him by land, we shall fight him by sea, we shall fight him in the air)....To Russian and to the Russian people.

Dur; 1'30"

NARR:

Well you know the end of this story. The Nazis and Japanese lost the war. And everyone remembers how Sir Winston felt, when things were at their worst for Britain, that victory would come. That was twenty years ago. But he did not rest from his work. He became Prime Minister again in 1951 and when he gave that up he began to write a History of Britain and the spread of British ways of life all over the world. Perhaps one day you'll read something in these books. And you will find that Sir Winston can make what happened long ago as exciting as if it were happening now/and boys and girls he not only liked reading and writing History; he made History and he lived it. And that is why we say that with his death a whole era - a whole period of time-has passed away.

OPR:

PLAY THEME: